

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for preparing a tibia for knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:
 - a tibial base having a center axis; and
 - a handle coupled to the base at an anterior base location that is offset relative to the center axis.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of a tibial template, a trial tray, a punch guide, a cutting guide, a reaming guide, an alignment guide, and combinations thereof.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the handle is removably coupled to the base.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a link extending from the base at an offset relative to the center axis and coupled with the handle.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the offset is in a medial direction when the base engages a surface of the tibia.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is reversible such that the offset is in the medial direction for right and left knee surgery.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the handle has a longitudinal axis aligned with the center axis.

8. An apparatus for preparing a tibia for knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a reversible base operable to engage in contact a surface of the tibia, the base having a center axis;

a link coupled to the base at a position that is medially offset from the center axis; and

a handle coupled to the link.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link is removably coupled to the base.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the handle is removably coupled to the link.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link and the handle are integral to the base.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link is integral to the handle.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the handle is aligned with the center axis.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link is at an angle with the center axis.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the angle is about 15° to about 45°.

16. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link has a curved portion between the base and the handle.

17. An apparatus for preparing a tibia in knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a tibial base having a center axis; and

a handle coupled to the base at a first end, the first end having a medially offset cutout oriented to provided a lateral clearance relative to the center axis of the base.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the handle is removably coupled to the base.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the cutout has a curved portion adjacent to the base.

20. A method for tibial preparation for a knee implant procedure, the method comprising:

selecting a tibial base; and

coupling the tibial base with a handle at a position medially offset relative to a center axis of the tibial base.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein coupling comprises removably coupling.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein coupling comprises integrally coupling.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein coupling comprises coupling by a link medially offset to the center axis.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising rotating the tibial base 180° between right and left knee procedures.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the tibial base is a tibial template.

26. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the tibial base is selected from the group consisting of a tibial template, a trial tibial tray, a punch guide, a cutting guide, a reaming guide, and an alignment guide.